

The Lewis Pierson House
Horsehill Road, Morristown vicinity
Hanover Township, Morris County, New Jersey

HABS-NJ-689

HABS
NJ
14-MORTON
2-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey
Seymour Williams, F.A.I.A., District Officer
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

HABS
N.J.

14-MORTO-V.

2-

The Lewis Pierson House
Horsehill Road*
Hanover Township, Morris County, New Jersey

Owners: Mr. Lewis E. Pierson (occupant) and his
sister Mrs. Albert L. Davis

Date of Erection: About 1840

Architect: Unknown

Builder: Lewis Pierson (1800-1879) original owner

Present Condition: Original, partitioned for two
family occupancy

Number of Stories: Two and one-half and one and
one-half over cellar

Materials of Construction:

Foundation - stone masonry

Exterior walls - timber frame clapboarded

Interior walls - frame studding, lathed and
plastered

Chimneys - brick, built into inside of gable
end walls

Roof - gable, wood shingled, and leanto shed

Historical Data:

The identification of this farm house by
determination of the name of the owner of the land
at the time of its erection thereon is the result of
a search of title back from the present owners as
recorded in the County archives and is reported as
follows.

By a deed of 2 April 1799, one Jacob Shipman
and wife Mary, of Hanover Township, Morris County,

* The house stands on the west side of this road (which
is the continuation of Evergreen Avenue, and Water Street,
Morristown) and is the 2nd house above the intersecting
Hanover Avenue.

conveyed to Aaron Pierson of Morristown for \$825 a 58 acre tract of land having a frontage of some 706 feet on the northeast side of the "road that divides the Townships of Morris and Hanover" and of some 2492 feet on the northwest side of the intersecting "road leading from Morristown to Richard Johnson's farm" (respectively Hanover Avenue and Horse Hill Road today).

William Johnes and wife Charlotte, a daughter and heir of Aaron Pierson, abovenamed, deceased, conveyed this tract, with two others in Morristown, to his son and heir, Ebenezer H. Pierson (a) of same place, by their deed of 5 March 1805. The last named mortgaged the tract above described to Mary C., Delia J. and Caroline W. Tuttle, all of Morris Township on 4 March 1811. As the result of foreclosure of this mortgage, the sheriff seized this as the estate of Ebenezer H. Pierson deceased, sold it at public sale to Joseph W. Blackley (b) of Cincinnati, Ohio, highest bidder, for \$500, and conveyed it by deed of 14 October 1833.

The last named conveyed the said 58 acre tract (with some 23 acres additional lying eastward across Horse Hill Road) to Lewis Pierson of Morris Township by deed of 11 June 1840, in consideration of \$1600. The previous owners having been non-resident on this tract in Hanover Township, it appears that this grantee (who by his grandson, the present owner, is said to have built and occupied the house thereon here considered) was in fact the first actually to reside there and until his death in 1879.

(a) Ebenezer Howell Pierson, b. 10 Feb. 1771, Morristown, a physician, removed to Cincinnati 1816, d. there 14 Oct. 1828, son of Aaron Pierson and wife Mary Howell. (Hist. First Presb. Ch. Morristown, 1885, Part II, 181).

(b) Joseph Warren Blackley, b. 7 Aug. 1797, son of Ebenezer Blackley, M.D., and wife Elizabeth Spencer of Morristown, N.J., d. 27 July 1868 in Cincinnati, O. (Ibid. 21).

In the will of this Lewis Pierson(c) of Hanover Township, dated 29 January 1879 and proved 24 March next, he devised to his son William A. Pierson for life the "part of my homestead farm lying on the south side of the road leading from Morristown to Malapardis" excepting the "House Lot in front of my present residence," which 8.75 acre lot he devised to his son John Pierson. Also to son William for life an 11 acre lot on the north side of that road and in the rear of a lot already conveyed to the son John, and both lots so devised to William to be sold after his death and part of the proceeds to go to the latter's daughter. Principally, he devised to his son John Pierson "during his natural life the house in which I now live and all that part of my homestead farm lying on the north side of the road leading from Morristown to Malapardis," excepting the 11 acres devised to his other son, William A. Pierson, and an 8.75 acre "House Lot" across that road and "in front of my said dwelling house," and after his death, the property to descend to his heirs and assigns. To his daughter Jane, wife of J. Harvey Wilson of Morristown and Eliza wife of Silas Mills of Petersburg, Virginia, he left legacies.

John Pierson, son and lifetime devisee abovenamed, with his wife Elizabeth A. and his son Lewis E. Pierson, conveyed to his daughter Harriet Elizabeth Davis, wife of Albert L. Davis, all of Hanover Township, by deed of 16 March 1909, a lot having a 100 feet frontage on the northwest side of Horse Hill Road, part of the premises devised to them in the will abovesaid. Likewise, by deed of same date, the father and his daughter conveyed a lot of same size to the son Lewis E. Pierson, being next

(c) Lewis Pierson, d. 15 March 1879 aged 78 years, son of David Pierson and wife Bathia Hallock; he mar. 2 March 1825 Sarah Ann Dalrymple. (Ibid. pp. 187 and 189).

northeast above the first lot. A modern house erected on her lot is now occupied by Mrs. Davis. The old house, here surveyed thus came by entail to said Lewis E. Pierson and Harriet E. Davis, of whom the former was occupant thereof at the time of our survey in January 1941.

Reference:

Search of title in Morris County land and probate records by James Hanlon, H.A.B.S. abstractor, reported 30 January 1941

Lewis S. Cook
Supervising Historian

Approved:

Seymour Williams
SEYMOUR WILLIAMS, F.A.I.A.
District Officer